



BALTIMORE COUNTY IMPLEMENTING UPDATES TO SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS

Baltimore County released the Final Report of the Baltimore County Solid Waste Work Group on September 14 and at the same time began implementing some of the recommended updates to the County's solid waste regulations. The mission of the Work Group was to examine current operations of the Bureau of Solid Waste and to study the state of waste materials management regionally, nationally and globally. Facilitated discussions with stakeholders were held in an effort to generate actionable steps for the County to take during a five-year planning period. The Authority, through staff participation and the use of its on-call consulting contracts, assisted the County in developing the scope of this study to ensure that the final product would meet the County's expectations. This planning effort reflects one of the many facets of the Authority's mission of service to its Members.

The Work Group's mission began in October 2020 when Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski issued an

Executive Order stating that "the work group will examine existing efforts as well as national best practices, and will make recommendations that will inform a five-year plan for improving the county's solid waste collection and disposal system. This will include recommendations related to improving the operations of waste collection and improving internal Department of Public Works (DPW) operations, as well as recommendations for reducing overall waste production by promoting improved recycling practices, composting and other innovative waste diversion strategies. The County will partner with the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority to facilitate the work group's efforts and GBB Solid Waste Consultants to provide technical support."

The Work Group, which began meeting in November of 2020, was led by Chief County Administrative Officer Stacy Rogers and was staffed with County personnel from the Department of Public Works and Transportation, the Office of Law, the Department of Environmental Protection and

Sustainability, and the Office of Budget and Finance. Background preparation moved quickly through the Fall as the scope of work was shaped.

The Work Group's task was supported by a break-out subcommittee of stakeholders who took a deeper dive into the nuts and bolts of current collections in the County, and discussed how the potential recommendations would impact small businesses. At the same time and equally important, collections companies were able to provide feedback as to how the potential recommendations would impact the day-to-day work of waste haulers. Topics for the Work Group included an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of current operations, technology research and presentations, and financing options. The February 2021 meeting included a summary of a public survey that had been conducted for the purpose of allowing residents and businesses in Baltimore County to weigh in on solid waste topics.

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The final meeting was on March 4 and included a presentation of the potential recommendations and a public comment period. GBB provided a budget analysis of the potential recommendations so that the County would be able to make practical planning decisions moving forward. As a result of these efforts, the County is moving forward with several of the policy and practical recommendations for FY 22, including certain updates to the County's collections regulations and procurement of bulk waste collections services.

Throughout its process, the Work Group was guided by the following questions:

- How to prevent, reduce, reuse?
- What to recycle/divert?
- How to collect and process?
- What to do with what is left?
- How to finance?

Additionally, the Solid Waste Work Group defined the three pillars of the Zero Waste concept for the County as follows:

1. Reduction and reuse of materials, e.g., Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)/ Product Stewardship (also to increase recycling), food capture and distribution, bulky material collection for reuse/donation, promotion of refill and reuse packaging models at stores;
2. Increased recycling, e.g., current curbside materials such as food scraps, mattresses, electronics and paint; and
3. Use of a sustainability lens for what is left.

In announcing the release of the Final Report, County Executive Olszewski said, "I applaud County Administrative Officer Rodgers and all the members of our Work Group for their efforts to develop these actionable recommendations which will inform our ongoing work to create more sustainable practices, reduce the garbage we create, and protect our planet."

The full announcement can be found here: [Baltimore County's Solid Waste Work Group Issues Recommendations to Improve Recycling and Solid Waste System](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10000/Baltimore-County-Solid-Waste-Work-Group-Issues-Recommendations-to-Improve-Recycling-and-Solid-Waste-System) ([baltimorecountymd.gov](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov))

The Solid Waste Work Group Page, which includes recordings of the meetings, the agenda and minutes is located here: [Solid Waste Work Group - Baltimore County](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10000/Solid-Waste-Work-Group-Baltimore-County) ([baltimorecountymd.gov](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov))

The report without the appendices can be found here: [Final ReportBCGSolidWasteWorkGroupWOAppendices.pdf](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10000/Final-Report-BCGSolidWasteWorkGroupWOAppendices.pdf) ([baltimorecountymd.gov](https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov))

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- County Executive Olszewski



NEW BLUE RECYCLING CARTS COMING TO BALTIMORE CITY HOUSEHOLDS

Something new and blue is coming to 190,000 homes in the City of Baltimore in the next few months. The City worked with multi-funding stakeholders to prepare and distribute 65-gallon rolling, lidded recycling bins to households throughout the City in an effort to improve recycling collection. In announcing the new residential recycling program on September 24, Baltimore City Department of Public Works Director Jason W. Mitchell said, “We are grateful for the Mayor’s vision of a cleaner and more equitable Baltimore and the collaboration between Baltimore Civic Fund, The Recycling Partnership, and Closed Loop Partners to make this a reality for the residents of our city.”

At the same event, Keysha Burton, Community Program Manager at The Recycling Partnership, noted that this recycling container program is historic. “Our grant to provide equitable access to recycling for all Baltimore City residents is the single-largest recycling grant in The Partnership’s seven-year history, and we

are honored it has been used to support the City’s Less Waste, Better Baltimore plan to deliver curbside recycling carts to every Baltimore home.”

The City has been working for months to distribute the recycling carts. Through Authority staff participation and its on-call contract with Geosyntec Consultants, the Authority assists the City in tracking data related to the cart roll-out. Geosyntec worked with the City to develop the Less Waste, Better Baltimore Plan. The goal of the data monitoring effort is to support the City’s tracking and reporting efforts in order to provide timely information to residents and elected officials. This includes tracking cart program calls to the City’s 311 Center.

Cart manufacturer Rehrig Pacific prepared distribution routes and coordinated delivery teams as part of the project. Carts are being shipped to the City from a manufacturing center throughout the roll-out period and then staged at a City controlled lot. From there, distribution teams load smaller

box trucks each day for delivery. For more information on cart distribution visit:

Residential Recycling Carts | Baltimore City Department of Public Works.

See Frequently Asked Questions at: Recycling Cart FAQs.pdf

For more information on the DPW Less Waste Better Baltimore Plan visit:

About the Less Waste, Better Baltimore Plan | Baltimore City Department of Public Works



New Blue Recycling Bins welcome letter and instructions for use.

Photo credit GeoSyntec



Recycling carts stored at staging lot.

AUTHORITY ISSUES TWO NEW RFPs



1 Solid Waste and Recycling Consultant

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) from firms qualified to provide on-call contractor services including consulting, engineering, management and construction related to solid waste, diversion/recycling, and biosolids and organics management. Zero waste, sustainable materials management and circular economy practices are integral to recycling, diversion and solid waste planning efforts, and are included in the planning category.

2 Photovoltaic Facility Management

The Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority is issuing a Request for Proposals for a contractor to provide staff, services and materials related to the Operations, Monitoring and Maintenance of the Photovoltaic Facility at the Ballenger-McKinney Wastewater Treatment Plant, located near 4520 Metropolitan Court, Frederick, MD 21704.

The RFP documents are available for viewing or downloading at nmwda.org/procurement-opportunities. If you would like to receive a copy by U.S. mail, please contact the Authority at procurement@nmwda.org or 410-333-2730.

To be added to the RFP distribution list and to receive RFP updates, please fill out the Contact Information Form located in the notice and send to procurement@nmwda.org.



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